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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... December 24, 1953.....SS 133

## 1953 Crops Almost Equal To 2nd Largest Total

Crop production in 1953 is virtually equal to the second-largest total produced in 1952, in spite of a severe drought in a large part of the country. The index of crop production at nearly 132 percent of the 1923-32 base period practically equals the 132 percent of 1952. These two years are exceeded only by the 135.5 percent in 1948.

## Crop Acreage Smaller Than Average

A total of nearly 340½ million acres were harvested in 1953. This is less than in 1952 or any of the 7 years, 1943-49.

Acreage losses—the difference between planted and harvested totals—were nearly 18.7 million acres. This is 4.5 million acres more than in 1952, and with the exception of the 26 million acreage loss in 1951, the largest since 1939.

## Yield Per Acre at Record High

Yields per acre, in the aggregate, were record high in 1953. The composite yield index is computed at 152 percent of the 1923-32 base, just topping the previous record set in 1948. New high yields per acre were set in 1953 for cotton lint, rice, peanuts, dry beans, cranberries and sugar beets.

## 1953 A Good Year Despite Drought

During the early growing season of 1953 crops made mostly good progress. Late in June crops were threatened by a widespread shortage of soil moisture. In some central and southwestern areas a major drought developed. Some winter wheat and oats were reduced in yield and quality but most crops escaped heavy damage. Only durum wheat suffered severely in most producing areas. Conditions were favorable to ideal for harvesting small grains and good quality hay. The dry weather favored cotton development and harvesting of most crops.

## Corn Crop 5% Larger Than Average

The 3.2 billion-bushel corn crop is the fifth largest of record and is generally of outstandingly good quality. The 1952 crop totaled nearly 3.3 billion bushels and the 1942-51 average was 3.0 billion. The 1953 harvest period was unusually favorable throughout the country. No frost damage of consequence occurred and the crop was dry enough to crib at an early date.

## Wheat Crop 7% Above Average

The total wheat crop in 1953 was 1,169 million bushels—fourth largest of record. The 1952 crop totaled 1,299 million bushels and the 10-year average is 1,089 million.

Winter wheat totaled 878 million bushels, a sixth less than the record crop of 1,060 million bushels harvested in 1952, but 10 percent above average.

A near-average crop of all spring wheat was harvested in 1953. The durum wheat crop was the smallest since the drought period of the mid-thirties. Other spring wheat harvested in 1953 exceeds the 1952 production by 28 percent and the average production by 9 percent.

## Cotton Lint Yield Per Acre Sets New High Record

1953 cotton production totaled 16,437,000 bales—the fourth largest crop of record. This compares with the 1952 crop of 15,139,000 bales and the 10-year average of 12,216,000. The average lint yield of 322.4 pounds per acre is 11.1 pounds above the previous record high yield of 311.3 pounds harvested in 1948, and compares with the revised 10-year average of 271.4 pounds. The record yield per acre is largely due to an increase in the proportion of the acreage in the higher yielding States.

## Oat Crop Below Average

The 1953 crop of oats is estimated at 1,216 million bushels, 3 percent less than in 1952 and 8 percent less than average. Even though growers planted 3 percent more acres than last year, yields in the leading oats-producing States were so drastically reduced by adverse conditions that production was below that of 1952.

## Soybean Crop Down From Last Year But Above Average

Soybean production in 1953 is the lowest since 1949. The crop of 262 million bushels is 12 percent less than last year but is 19 percent above the average of 220 million bushels. A record large acreage was planted to soybeans in 1953, but yields per acre were low.

## Parity Prices for Farm Products ★ and Actual Prices Received

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	Oct. 15, 1953	Nov. 15, 1953	Nov. 15, 1953
Wheat, bu. .... dol.	1.94	2.00	2.45
Corn, bu. .... dol.	1.34	1.33	1.78
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	10.9	10.9	13.3
Cotton, lb. 1/..... ct.	32.46	31.82	34.35
Potatoes, bu. .... dol.	.897	.916	1.59
Hogs, 100 lb. .... dol.	21.30	20.00	20.10
Beef cattle, 100 lb. .... dol.	14.70	14.70	20.90
Calves, 100 lb. .... dol.	14.30	15.00	23.20
Lambs, 100 lb. .... dol.	16.60	17.20	22.70
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	65.7	66.8	74.0
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .... dol.	4.61	2/ 4.75	4.65
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	23.3	23.6	30.5
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	53.3	49.7	3/ 47.7

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.

### Tobacco Crop 5% Larger Than Average

Tobacco production is estimated at 2,046 million pounds—9 percent below last year's crop and 12 percent less than the record crop in 1951. The flue-cured crop is down 8 percent from last year but is nearly 10 percent above the 1942-51 average.

### Hay Production 3% Above Average

Hay crops produced a large total tonnage in 1953 despite the summer drought and more than usual diversion of hay acreage to pasture. The total crop of 105.3 million tons, which has been exceeded in only three other years, was harvested from 73.9 million acres, an area slightly below average. The yield of 1.42 tons per acre of all hay is the third highest of record.

Here is production of other important crops in 1953, with comparisons:

Crop	1953 Production	1953 compared with	
		1952	1942-51 av.
Barley	241 million bushels	up 7%	down 18%
Rye	18 million bushels	1/8 larger	down 30%
Buckwheat	3,193,000 bushels	same	down 50%
Flaxseed	36.8 million bushels	1/5 larger	down 4%
Rice	52.5 million bags <u>1</u> /	up 9%	up 50%
Sorghum grain	109 million bushels	up 31%	down 21%
Cottonseed	6.7 million tons	up 9%	up 36%
Beans, dry edible	16.8 million bags <u>2</u> /	up 12%	up 2%
Peas, dry field	2,974,000 bags <u>2</u> /	up 25%	down 46%
Cowpeas	1,964,000 bushels	up 15%	down 45%
Peanuts, picked and threshed	1,574 million pounds	up 15%	down 24%
Potatoes	373.7 million bushels	up 7%	down 9%
Sweetpotatoes	34 million bushels	up 19%	down 37%

1/ 100 pound bags.

2/ 100 pound bags (clean basis).

### 8 Grains Tonnage Relatively Large

Production of the 8 grains totalled 155.5 million tons—far below the 177 million tons in 1948 but otherwise exceeded only in 1952, 1949, and 1946. The 38 million tons of food grains has been exceeded in 3 of the last 7 years, but in no year prior to 1946. Feed grain tonnage of 117 million tons is relatively small by recent standards, but prior to 1946 it was exceeded only by the 1942 tonnage.

### Large Tonnage of Oilseeds

The tonnage of oilseeds available from 1953 crops is among the largest of record. The total of 16.4 million tons is 1.5 percent less than the 1952 record tonnage, but a fifth above average. The soybean crop makes up nearly half of the total.

### Hay Seed Crops Below Average

The 1953 crops of alfalfa, red, alsike, and sweet-clover, lespedeza, and timothy seed totaled 352.8 million pounds of clean seed. This is 29 percent smaller than

the 1952 production and 23 percent below the 10-year average. But because carry-over is 50 percent larger than in 1952 and 81 percent above average, the total supply for planting during the 1953-54 season is only 15 percent smaller than that of the preceding season and 6 percent below average.

### Fruit

Nearly 8.2 million tons of the major deciduous fruits were produced in 1953—5 percent less than in 1952 and 9 percent below average. The 1953-54 citrus total is expected to reach 7.6 million tons, more than either last year or average. Tonnage of the 4 tree nuts was 10 percent less than in 1952, but above average.

### Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Nov. 1952	Oct. 1953	Nov. 1953
Prices received by farmers ....	277	250	249
Crops.....	257	231	234
Food grains .....	248	223	229
Feed grains and hay .....	213	187	188
Tobacco .....	412	439	433
Cotton .....	288	274	268
Fruit .....	195	214	219
Truck crops.....	238	175	186
Oil-bearing crops.....	300	255	263
Livestock and products .....	295	267	263
Meat animals .....	310	273	267
Dairy products .....	318	283	289
Poultry and eggs .....	238	236	225
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	268	258	259
Commodities used in living	269	270	270
Commodities used in			
production .....	266	246	248
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates .....	282	276	277
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers) .....	98	91	90

### Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Nov. 1953
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	249
Prices paid by farmers, interest,		
taxes and wage rates .....	1910-14=100	277
Parity ratio.....	1910-14=100	90
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14=100	<u>1</u> / 515
Wholesale prices of food .....	1947-49=100	104
Retail prices of food.....	1947-49=100	<u>1</u> / 114
Weekly factory earnings .....	1947-49=100	<u>1</u> / 149
Production Comparisons	Jan.-Nov. 1952	Jan.-Nov. 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	106.7	111.4
Eggs, (bil.) .....	56.0	56.7
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	<u>2</u> / 5,887	<u>2</u> / 7,687
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.) ....	<u>2</u> / 477	<u>2</u> / 535
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.) .....	<u>2</u> / 9,095	<u>2</u> / 7,830
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	<u>2</u> / 15,983	<u>2</u> / 16,777

1/ October figures.

2/ January-October under Federal inspection.



Apples — 92,584,000 bushels — slightly above the 1952 crop but 15 percent below average.  
 Peaches — 64,102,000 bushels — 2 percent above 1952 but 4 percent below average.  
 Pears — 29,065,000 bushels — 6 percent below last year and 4 percent below average.  
 Grapes — 2,640,900 tons, 17 percent below the 1952 crop and 8 percent below the 10-year average.  
 Oranges — early and mid-season oranges for the 1953-54 season forecast at 62.1 million boxes — 3 percent above last season and 25 percent above average.  
 Valencias 57.8 million boxes — 3 percent below last season but 3 percent above average.  
 Grapefruit — 43.2 million boxes — 13 percent above last season but 16 percent below average.  
 Lemons — 13 million boxes — 3 percent above the 1952-53 crop and 2 percent above average.

#### **Record Large Production of Vegetables for Fresh Market**

Production of 28 principal vegetables for fresh market in the 1953 season was a record 10.1 million tons, 6 percent larger than in the 1952 season, and 7 percent above the 1949-51 average. The previous record high was the 9.8 million tons produced in 1950. Record crops of cantaloups, celery, sweet corn, lettuce, green peppers, and watermelons were harvested in 1953.

#### **Above-Average Production of Vegetables for Processing**

Production in 1953 of the 11 vegetables for commercial canning, freezing, pickling, and other processing, exclusive of dehydration, is 6.55 million tons. This is 2 percent less than the production of 6.66 million tons in 1952 but 16 percent more than the 1942-51 average. The 1953 production is 9 percent below the record output of 7.22 million tons in 1951. Record crops of green lima beans, snap beans, and cucumbers for pickles were produced this season.

#### **1953 Pig Crop 10% Smaller Than 1952**

The 1953 pig crop totaled 82.1 million head, a decrease of 10 percent from a year ago. The spring pig crop was down 11 percent and the fall crop was down 9 percent. The number of sows farrowing this fall was 9 percent smaller than last year. The number of pigs saved per litter at 6.70 is slightly above last fall and is the highest on record. The fall pig crop at 31.9 million head is the smallest fall crop since 1947.

For the 1954 spring pig crop, reports on breeding intentions indicate a total of 7,795,000 sows to farrow, 6 percent above the number farrowing last spring. If the intentions for spring farrowings materialize and the number of pigs saved per litter equals the 10-year average with an allowance for upward trend, the 1954 spring pig crop would be 52.0 million head. Such a crop would be 4 percent larger than last spring.

#### **Milk Production Continues Large**

A heavy off-season milk production was in evidence again this year as November output totaled 8,255 million

pounds,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  percent above last year's previous high for the month, and 8 percent above the 10-year average. In the first 11 months of 1953, milk production totaled 111.4 billion pounds, some 4.7 billion more than in the same period of 1952. It appears likely that 1953 milk output will at least equal the all-time high of nearly 120 billion pounds in 1945.

#### **Record November Egg Production**

Farm flocks laid 4,803 million eggs during November — 7 percent more than in November 1952 and 41 percent above the 1942-51 average. Total egg production for the United States during the first 11 months of this year was 56,695 million eggs — 1 percent more than in the same months of 1952 and 9 percent above average. Laying flocks and potential layers numbered slightly more on December 1 than a year ago.

#### **Sharp Increase in Rye Acreage**

Acreage of rye sown for all purposes in the fall of 1953 is estimated at 4,035,000 acres — about 22 percent more than was seeded a year ago and only 3 percent less than the 10-year average. The increase is partially due to the wheat acreage allotment program and also to the limited grazing from permanent pastures and shortened roughage feed supplies caused by the dry summer and fall in many sections. Condition of rye on December 1 was reported at 78 percent of normal, compared with 67 percent a year ago and the 10-year average of 86 percent.

#### **Winter Wheat Seeded Acreage Smallest Since 1943**

Winter wheat growers appear to have responded to the acreage allotment program by seeding only about 4 acres of winter wheat for every 5 acres seeded last year. Acreage seeded in the fall of 1953 is estimated at 46,575,000 acres, 18 percent less than a year earlier and 9 percent less than the 10-year average seedings. The estimate of seeded acreage includes more than a million acres seeded in excess of allotments in designated drought areas for use as a pasture and cover crop.

A winter wheat crop of 750 million bushels is indicated, based on conditions as of December 1 and other factors. This would be 6 percent less than the 1942-51 average and about one-sixth smaller than the 1953 crop of 878 million bushels.

#### **Sharp Drop in Farm Employment**

Persons working on farms in late November totalled 8,147,000 — down a little more than 2,000,000 from a month earlier but slightly more than a year earlier. The decrease from a month ago was nearly twice as great, on a percentage basis, for hired workers as it was for family workers.

#### **Parity Ratio Down 1 Point**

The index of prices received by farmers on November 15 was 249, down 1 point from a month earlier. The index of prices paid, interest, taxes, and wage rates rose 1 point to 277. The parity ratio dropped to 90, down one point from October 15.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

U. S. Farm Output, Indicated 1953 with Comparison  
(Index Numbers, 1935-39=100)

Item	1935-39	1948-52	1952	Indicated 1953 <sup>1/</sup>
Total farm output.....	100	140	144	144
Livestock production <sup>2/</sup>	100	139	146	146
Crop production <sup>3/</sup> .....	100	133	134	133
Farm-produced power <sup>4/</sup>	100	50	41	37

<sup>1/</sup> Indications for 1953 based chiefly on the December 1953 report of the Crop Reporting Board.

<sup>2/</sup> Dairy products, poultry products, meat animals, wool and mohair. This index measures "gross" livestock production, i. e., feed and pasture consumed as well as product added in converting feed and pasture into livestock and livestock products.

<sup>3/</sup> All crop production including production of feed for farm horses and mules.

<sup>4/</sup> Not included in total farm output. Farm-produced power production includes the feed and pasture consumed by horses and mules, and the product added in converting this feed and pasture into animal power.

## Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's  
Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost <sup>1/</sup>	Farm value <sup>2/</sup>	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1952 average .....	\$1,028	\$481	\$547	47%
1952 - Oct. ....	1,045	490	555	47
1953 - Sept. 3/ .....	1,013	460	553	45
Oct. 4/ .....	1,008	449	559	45

<sup>1/</sup> Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2/</sup> Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

<sup>3/</sup> Revised.

<sup>4/</sup> Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

State estimates of cash receipts from farm marketings in October and U.S. totals for November were published in the Farm Income Situation released on December 17.

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